THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOCTOR IN THE NIGHT-TIME.

BY NEV FOUNTAIN

CAST:

THE DOCTOR:
Space-time traveller.

PERI:
Space-time traveller's American companion.

MICHAEL:
A teenage boy high on the autistic spectrum.

OLIVIA:
Michael's mother.

GEOFF / LLANGRAGEN:
Michael's father / Criminal mastermind of the Genoi.
(with subtle voice effect)

CUSTOMER:

1. NARRATION.

MICHAEL:
(V/O) This is the story of the very great mystery I had to solve. It was the greatest mystery in the world, and not a little mystery. I know lots of little mysteries. I do not know why my best friend Niall eats guinea pig food at school because it tastes horrible. I do not know why my dad's shop has a very rude sign on the front of it, and I do not know why our green rubbish bins are for rubbish that is mainly brown, and our brown rubbish bins are for rubbish that is mainly green. That makes no sense at all, but I know they are all little mysteries because no-one but me is bothered by them.

I have lots of little mysteries because of invisible rules, but I am also certain about one thing. I am certain I am very good at counting things, and I am very good at remembering things once I have counted them, and I know for definite that my father had one hundred and twenty-nine gnomes. He did NOT have one hundred and thirty. I know this for a fact.

These are the gnomes that my Dad had; one. There was a happy gnome with a grey beard, a yellow hat and blue trousers and a surprised gnome with a grey beard, a pipe a blue hat, and red jumper and blue trousers, and -

FX: FAST EDITS

MICHAEL:
- red hat with a yellow beard /grey all over and a -/ Sitting on a Mushroom / bell on the end and a / broken off at the wrist / Cheeky grin and holding a wheelbarrow, and that is all my Dad's one hundred and twenty nine gnomes, but when they were put in the van I was counting them, because I can't help counting, and on the day after my dad vanished there were a hundred and thirty gnomes EXACTLY.

The day I counted the gnomes was a very different kind of day. My school was closed because it was Sunday, and my mum was going out with her sister on a 'hen night' in Canterbury which wasn't at night, and not about hens at all, though she did come back with a box of chicken and chips from the shop on the corner which she knocked on the floor and cried. I get sad over dead animals sometimes, but only when they are just dead, like our cat Percival who got run over outside our house, and his guts

were all over the road like sausages and string, but I have never cried over a fried chicken.

So my dad took me to his work, which is ‘Houseproud’, which is a big store that sells nails and lawnmowers and huge long planks of wood and baths which you can’t wash in, because they are not attached to anything.

2. INT. DIY STORE. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)

FX: SHOP ATMOS.

MICHAEL:
Dad, your shop still says ‘Do it Yourself’ on the front. You have not changed it.

GEOFF:
(WEARY) No, Michael, I told you many times…

MICHAEL:
‘Do it Yourself’ is very rude thing to say. You must put a ‘please’ on the end or something, because then you wouldn’t (offend customers)

GEOFF:
Put this jacket on. You’re helping me today.

MICHAEL:
But this is not my jacket. It says ‘Johnson’ on it.

‘Johnson is not my name.’

GEOFF:
I know, Bob’s not here so you can wear his jacket.

MICHAEL:
But what if they call me ‘Johnson’.

GEOFF:
They won’t.

MICHAEL:
But what if they do.

GEOFF:
They. Won’t.

MICHAEL:
(AFTER PAUSE) But what if they (do)

GEOFF:
Just go round the store, and help the customers, okay?

3. INT. DIY STORE. DAY.

MICHAEL:
Hello.

CUSTOMER:
Ah…Hello.

MICHAEL:
My name is not ‘Johnson’ in case you’re wondering.

CUSTOMER:
Okay.

MICHAEL:
It’s Michael Andrew Jennings. And I am fourteen years, eight months, three days and nine minutes old at the time of me telling you this.

CUSTOMER:
Oh, right.

MICHAEL:
You’re looking at candles.

CUSTOMER:
Yes, they’re very nice.

MICHAEL:
When you light them they smell nice.

CUSTOMER:
Oh, really?

MICHAEL:
Yes, really. (PAUSE) I’ll show you how they work.

CUSTOMER:
No, that’s fine really.

MICHAEL:
I really should. That is my job. To tell people my name is not ‘Johnson’ and help customers.

FX: FIRE ALARM. SPRINKLERS. SCREAMS.

MICHAEL:
(V/O) Do not light candles in shops. That is an invisible rule. An invisible rule is a rule that no one tells you

about until you break it, and then everyone gets cross and tells you shouldn't have broken the rule, even though they did not tell you the rule, it is always a very important rule.

My dad got very angry with me for breaking the invisible rule I didn't know about, and because I was wet and the alarm hurt my ears, I did that thing I do when I can't cope. I rolled up tight into a ball like a hedgehog, and screamed until I didn't know where the alarm stopped and my scream started.

(MICHAEL'S SCREAM)

FX: FIRE ALARM STOPS

(MICHAEL'S SCREAM STOPS)

Then Dad's boss turned up, and he folded his arms, and he said he wanted a word with my dad.

I had to wait in the car for a very long time, which I did not like because I just had my school books to read, which I did not read because I wasn't at school.

After a VERY long time my dad got in the car and said to me:

4. INT. CAR PARKED IN CAR PARK. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)

GEOFF:
(AWE) Michael, you don't belong on this planet.

MICHAEL:
(V/O) Well, he might of said it in that kind of way. But he might of said it in a

GEOFF:
(DISGUSTED) Michael, you don't belong on this planet.

MICHAEL:
(V/O) sort of way. But I think it was the first way, because when you tell someone something important like they're not from this planet, then it should be said in a proper way.

GEOFF:
Did you tell anyone at work about the gnomes?

MICHAEL:
(NOT V/O) No dad. You said not to.

GEOFF:
You did, didn't you?

MICHAEL:
No dad, the gnomes have always been our secret.

GEOFF:
(SIGHS) I'd like to believe you, Michael, but I just can't. I've always wanted to trust you, but I just… can't. You've let me down too many times.

MICHAEL:
(V/O) Then we went home, and he rang mum and got her to come home early from her hen night, so he could have an argument with her too.

I wondered if mum was telling dad off for telling me that I was from another planet. Perhaps that's why I break all the invisible rules, because people who get born on Earth get born with the invisible rules all inside their heads. I went into the garden and sat with the gnomes.

And THAT is when I counted the gnomes. One hundred and twenty-nine. When I was allowed back inside the house, my

dad was putting his fishing clothes on, with his rod and his silly hat and his wellies. My mum said:

5. INT. HALLWAY. (CONTINUOUS)

OLIVIA:
Where do you think you're going?

GEOFF:
The pub, obviously.

OLIVIA:
You're not going anywhere. Not with those idiots.

GEOFF:
Why not? It's Sunday. I've got nothing else to do, have I?

FX: FRONT DOOR SLAM.

MICHAEL:
(V/O) I suspected that he was not going to the pub at all. That was a type of lie that people sometimes use. I suspected that he was going fishing on a boat in the sea with his mates my mum doesn't like.

It was then I thought how like a gnome my dad looked with his silly hat and his fishing rod and his big wellies, and I think that gave me a clue in solving the great mystery.

When I woke up because there was lots of phone calls, and there were policeman at the door, and my mum started crying about the chicken on the floor, and Auntie Peggy turned up in her nightgown and drove me to her house, which I like because she has SKY on her telly and she eats cereals with chocolate on them. I stayed there for days, and Auntie Peggy didn't even mention school, so neither did I, in case she had forgotten and I didn't want to remind her.

FX: LARGE LORRY SOUND. BEEPING AS IT REVERSES.

MICHAEL:
When she drove me back to our house there was a 'Houseproud' van outside, and two men with 'Jones' and 'McCann' on their pockets got out and they put the gnomes in the back of their van very quickly, and I counted the gnomes, because I can't not count things, and there were a hundred and thirty. That was the GREAT MYSTERY!

6. EXT. FRONT GARDEN. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)

MICHAEL:
Mum, where has dad gone?

OLIVIA:
Michael, I'm afraid he's died.

MICHAEL:
Died?

OLIVIA:
He was…he was on that dinghy in the papers. The one that tipped over.

MICHAEL:
Oh.

OLIVIA:
Are you alright, Michael. Do you want a hug?

MICHAEL:
No thank you. That doesn't make sense, really. People don't die when you're not looking.

OLIVIA:
They do.

MICHAEL:
Not on television.

OLIVIA:
This isn't television.

MICHAEL:
It doesn't make sense.

OLIVIA:
It never does.

MICHAEL:
Can you tell me when he's coming back?

OLIVIA:
(SCARED) He's not coming back Michael. I'm afraid!

MICHAEL:
(V/O) Or she might have said it like

OLIVIA:
(ANGRY) He's not coming back, Michael. I'm afraid.

MICHAEL:
(V/O) I think she must have said it in a scared way, because the other way meant she was angry at me which makes no sense.

7. EXT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM/BACK GARDEN. NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

MICHAEL:
(V/O) That night I stood at my window and saw a man with yellow trousers creeping around in our back garden. Then a girl climbed over the fence, and I could see her knees.

FX: DISTANT, THEY'RE IN GARDEN, WE'RE STILL IN BEDROOM.

DOCTOR:
Find anything?

PERI:
(OUT OF BREATH) Nope. Just a pile of tyres, a rusty engine and a really angry dog called 'Killer'.

DOCTOR:
Well, it was definitely this address (MOVES OUT OF EARSHOT)

FX: DOG BARKING

MICHAEL:
(V/O) I stood there in the window for a very long time, and thought they must be looking for the 130th gnome, so I stroked my chin, because that is what people do when they are thinking and making a clever plan.

8. INT. DIY STORE. DAY.

MICHAEL:
(V/O) At the weekend I went back to 'Houseproud'. I went around the store, looking for my dad, and then I saw all of his gnomes on a plastic bit of grass and a pond with bubblewrap pretending to be water.

I worked out which gnome was the 130th gnome; dad never owned one with a silver cap, and a necklace round his neck that flashed blue. I knew that there was only one logical explanation - my dad had been changed into a gnome.

I knew what I had to do. I bought the gnome with my pocket money and when I did I made Janice on the Tills cry, and I did not know why, but that is a little mystery, and I had a much bigger mystery to solve.

9. INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM. (CONTINUOUS)

MICHAEL:
(V/O) I taped my interview with my dad because that is what police do on television.

FX: CLICK. DISTORT FROM NOW AS THOUGH ON TAPE RECORDING.

MICHAEL:
(NOT V/O) Interview commencing at 11.26. Present in the room is Michael Andrew Jennings, and Geoffrey Jennings, currently a gnome. Dad? Are you alright? Don't be scared.

FX: DOORBELL.

MICHAEL:
I'm from another planet and people from other planets are very good at sorting things out.

FX: DOORBELL

OLIVIA: (DISTANT SHOUT)
Michael, get the door! I'm in the shower.

MICHAEL:
Interview terminated at 11.27.

FX: CLICK.

10. INT. HALLWAY. (CONTINUOUS)

FX: FEET DOWNSTAIRS. DOOR OPEN.

DOCTOR:
Hello young man. And what's your name?

MICHAEL:
Michael Andrew Jennings.

DOCTOR:
Well, Michael, I'm the Doctor and this is my friend Peri.

PERI:
Hi Michael.

MICHAEL:
Hello Peri. You have a boy's name.

PERI:
Well, not exactly.

MICHAEL:
Yes, exactly. I know two boys called Perry, but no girls. So it is exactly a boy's name.

DOCTOR:
Very logical.

PERI:
We'd like to speak to you about your father.

MICHAEL:
My father can't talk to you at the moment because he is in a shoebox under my bed and so he is indisposed at the moment.

PERI:
Oh…kay…

OLIVIA:
(COMING DOWN STAIRS) Michael! Get away from the door, I'll handle this. (TO DOCTOR AND PERI) Hello, what is it?

PERI:
Sorry to bother you, but we need to talk about…

OLIVIA:
His father, yes I heard you.

DOCTOR:
It's very important.

OLIVIA:
You're from the council aren't you? Social workers. You can always tell.

DOCTOR:
Madam do we-- ? [look like social workers?]

PERI:
Yes, we're social workers. Making sure everything's alright. Okay Doctor?

OLIVIA:
Please. It's too early to talk about it with Michael. (LOWERS VOICE) Geoff went fishing because he lost his job. He always used to go fishing before the shop made him work Sundays. Michael must have told someone about his gnomes.

PERI:
His gnomes?

OLIVIA:
I don't want Michael to think it's his fault.

DOCTOR:
Tell us about the gnomes, Mrs Jennings.

PERI:
It's very important.

OLIVIA:
He didn't exactly buy the gnomes. He took one or two, and then — he got a bit carried away. Mainly because Michael liked them when he was little. I told him he was spending too much money but he said he had a staff discount. Once I found out, there were too many of them to get rid of. Michael must have said something to someone at work, because his boss came round. He knew exactly where to go. I don't want Michael to think any of this was his fault.

DOCTOR:
Madam, prepare yourself for a shock. Michael didn't tell anyone about the gnomes.

OLIVIA:
He didn't? How do you know?

DOCTOR:
We have reason to believe one of the gnomes informed on your husband.

OLIVIA:
What?

DOCTOR:
Or to be more exact, the Llengragon of Genoi. We intercepted a message beamed from this location to a DIY store. It said 'come to 12 Arkadia gardens and learn something about Geoffrey Jennings. Look in the back garden'. It was broadcast on a frequency used by an alien life form which closely resembles a garden gnome.

PERI:
I'm sorry. He gets like this sometimes.

DOCTOR:
We have to find that alien. If you are holding out on us, then you are being grossly irresponsible. The whole planet could be in great danger.

FX: DOOR SLAM. LETTERBOX RATTLE. WE MOVE OUTSIDE.

DOCTOR:
(THROUGH LETTERBOX) If you change your mind, we'll be inside the telephone box at the end of the road.

(PAUSE)

PERI:
(MUFFLED) Why did you say that?

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Why did I say what, specifically?

PERI:
You want me to be specific?

DOCTOR:
Yes.

PERI:
Specifically? Everything. We could have persuaded her, but as usual, you come in with all that stuff about aliens and the planet being in imminent danger.

DOCTOR:
I never said imminent. But I confess I do like the word ‘imminent’ and I may use it next time.

11. INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM.

FX: DISTORT AS ON TAPE RECORDING.

MICHAEL:
Interview resumed at 11.33. Present in the room is Michael Andrew Jennings, and Geoffrey Jennings, currently a gnome. Dad, can you hear me?

LLENGRAGAN:
Yes, Michael. I can hear you.

MICHAEL:
I knew it . I knew you were my dad. I solved a great mystery. And I rescued you. That was a very good thing I did.

LLENGRAGAN:
No it wasn't Michael. It was a bad thing.

MICHAEL:
Ah, I think you'll find on reflection that it was a good thing I did.

LLENGRAGAN:
No, I wanted to go to the shop. It's important that you take me back, Michael. If I go back to the shop, I can go to a better place and make lots of new friends.

MICHAEL:
No, dad. If you go to the shop you will be sold and end up in a strange garden and I won't see you anymore.

LLENGRAGAN:
Come with me then.

MICHAEL:
But I have school.

LLENGRAGAN:
Don't worry about school.

MICHAEL:
And mum. She can come too?

LLENGRAGAN:
No, Michael. She can't come.

MICHAEL:
But she has to come.

LLENGRAGAN:
She can't. She wouldn't like it.

MICHAEL:
If we both go she'll be on her own and she'll get even more sad.

LLENGRAGAN:
Michael, she can't come!

MICHAEL:
But I want her to.

LLENGRAGAN:
No! Michael! You don't understand. She can't come, and that is the end of the matter!

FX: SLAM OF TOYBOX.

LLENGRAGAN:
(MUFFLED) Michael, what are you doing?

MICHAEL:
I do understand, because I understand lots of things now, because I solved a great mystery, you're getting locked in my toybox until you find your manners.

LLENGRAGAN:
(M) **MICHAEL:**, no!

FX: CLICK. TAPE RECORDING ENDS.

MICHAEL: (V/O)
Over the next few hours I listened to him shout, then he stopped, so I opened it a crack and he tried to grab me, which isn't the way a responsible adult should behave, so I shook the box hard until he stopped shouting.

I wondered about what I could do, and then I stroked my chin again and worked out a very clever plan. I bought another gnome and painted the hat silver and made it a blue necklace, and put it in the shed window, and I left the light on, and waited for the man in yellow trousers to come back.

12. EXT. BACK GARDEN. NIGHT.

FX: RATTLE OF HANDLE. THUDDING ON INSIDE OF DOOR.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Hello? Hello?

MICHAEL:
Hello.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Oh. Hello again Michael. I seem to be locked in this shed. I don't suppose you could help me out?

MICHAEL:
I don't think so. That would be a waste of time.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) I fail to see how it would be waste of time.

MICHAEL:
(SIGHS, IT'S A STUPID QUESTION) I just locked you in. It would be a waste of time if I let you out again, just after I locked you in. I think you would agree that would be a waste of time.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) I agree. That would be a great waste of time.

MICHAEL:
Exactly. I got you in my trap. It's a very clever trap.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Oh yes, very clever.

MICHAEL:
I saw you were looking for a special gnome. That was very clever of me.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Very clever indeed. You are certainly a very special young man.

MICHAEL:
I used to be special, but then they said that calling me special was rude, so now I am not special anymore. I don't know how that works. It's an invisible rule. I don't like invisible rules.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Oh, invisible rules are terrible. They're the bane of my life. I'm always breaking them.

MICHAEL:
Me too. If the rules are so important, why not tell everyone what they are?

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Exactly! It would save a lot of bother.

MICHAEL:
Yes. It is a lot of bother. I don't know the invisible rules because I am from another planet.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Michael, we seem to have a great deal in common. (PAUSE) May I ask a question?

MICHAEL:
Yes. I'm good at questions.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Why have you locked me in the shed?

MICHAEL:
Because of your trousers.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED. THROWN) What about my trousers?

MICHAEL:
I watched you go about in the back gardens for three nights now, and you have worn the same yellow trousers for three nights.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Well…

MICHAEL:
My mum says wearing the same trousers every day is dirty.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Well I do have an explanation-- [for that, you see I...]

MICHAEL:
There is only one creature in the universe that never changes its trousers. And that is gnomes. And you are bigger than a normal gnome, therefore you are the chief gnome.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) I think I'm beginning to see your logic.

FX: BANG. BANG. BANG.

MICHAEL:
Are you trying to break out of my dad's shed?

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) No.

MICHAEL:
You are. I can hear you. That's vandalism. Vandalism is very wrong.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Michael, nobody disapproves of vandalism more than me. After all, you're speaking to someone who's met the original vandals. Now there's a group who didn't believe in changing their trousers. You really should let me out you know. You can't keep me in here forever.

MICHAEL:
You can come out when you promise to change my dad back from being a gnome.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Michael, that gnome under your bed is many things, but he is not your father. Do you hear me, Michael?

MICHAEL:
He is. He knew my name.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) The Genoi are very cunning Michael. They are a silicon based life form, genetically bred for war. They have been equipped with low level telepathy so they can extract information from the enemy. He would be able to read your mind and learn your name. Do you understand?

(SILENCE)

Are you still listening to me? He is not your father. (PAUSE) Michael?

MICHAEL:
I suppose you're right. He doesn't sound much like my dad. He is very rude. (GOING AWAY) Wait here. I'll just go and get him.

DOCTOR:
(MUFFLED) Michael! You haven't unlocked the door! (PAUSE) Michael!

13. INT. SHED. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

FX: DOOR UNLOCKED.

DOCTOR:
Thank you Michael. That shed was distressingly smaller on the inside and I was -

FX: DOOR OPEN.

DOCTOR:
Oh. Hello there.

OLIVIA:
You're not a social worker.

DOCTOR:
No. I'm not.

OLIVIA:
You've got ten seconds to tell me what you're doing in my garden, or I'll hit you with this spade.

DOCTOR:
I've told you.

OLIVIA:
About aliens.

DOCTOR:
Yes, aliens, Mrs Jeffries. Michael's gnome is in fact one of a number of killing machines, made by the Galactic Coalition. It was decided that the gnomes — the Genoi - were too dangerous so they put them all here. The high ozone content of your atmosphere acts as a natural paralysing agent on the Genoi. By putting them here they were reasonably certain none would get off the planet and wreak havoc.

OLIVIA:
Oh, yeah, right-- [this makes so much sense]

DOCTOR:
Listen! But the leader of the Genoi, Llengragan, invented a personal dampening field to counteract the effect and now he's returned to Earth to liberate his fellow gnomes. My friend and I have been trying to locate him and we believe he may now be in your son's possession.

FX: OLIVIA PUTS DOWN SPADE.

OLIVIA:
Michael doesn't have a gnome.

DOCTOR:
Yes he does.

OLIVIA:
No he doesn't.

DOCTOR:
Yes he does. He bought one of his father's from the DIY store and brought it back here.

OLIVIA:
Oh no...

PERI:
(APPROACHING) Doctor?

DOCTOR:
Peri! Over here!

PERI:
Doctor!

DOCTOR:
Good news. Michael has Llengragon, I've convinced him it's not his father, and he's bringing it here.

OLIVIA:
(LAUGHS) No he's not.

DOCTOR:
He is. He told me.

OLIVIA:
You idiot.

DOCTOR:
Me?

OLIVIA:
Yes you. (LAUGHS) You're just like Michael.

DOCTOR:
What?

OLIVIA:
Am I right, Peri?

PERI:
Sorry?

OLIVIA:
Your friend the Doctor. He doesn't see the emotions beneath the surface.

PERI:
He… Well no. Not always. Sometimes…

OLIVIA:
Has it not occurred to you, Doctor, that deep down, he bought the gnome because he misses his dad?

DOCTOR:
He's solving a mystery and-- [he wants to]

OLIVIA:
And he just needs something to help him remember?
And has it not occurred to you that he wouldn't want to give it up, even if he suspected it wasn't his father?

DOCTOR:
Oh. No. No I didn't.

14. INT. DIY STORE. NIGHT.

MICHAEL:
(V/O) I put him in my rucksack and took him to where he wanted to go, which, if you remember, was the 'Houseproud' DIY store.

FX: DOORS, SHOP ATMOS

MICHAEL:
We walked in straight away, but I thought that they always locked the shop at night. Perhaps there is an invisible rule which says that doors opened on thursday nights.

The gnome went to the pond full of bubble wrap, and he pulled the bubble wrap off and there was a machine under it. He took a fishing rod from another gnome and started poking away at the machine. I said:

MICHAEL:
(NOT V/O) What are you doing?

LLENGRAGEN:
Oh, you'll see. I've got some friends I want you to meet. I'm dead keen for the whole world to meet them. Dead keen. (LAUGHS)

MICHAEL:
I do not think you mean what you are saying. When people say they have friends they want you to meet on television they mean something completely horrible. Especially if they laugh at the end like you just did.

LLENGRAGEN:
Is that a fact?

MICHAEL:
And especially when they say 'dead' in that funny way, when you did not need to say 'dead' at all.

LLENGRAGEN:
Oh do they. How interesting.

MICHAEL:
I actually think not saying what you mean is rude and people should say what they mean at all times.

LLENGRAGEN:
Okay, okay, just shut up will you? You are irritating. Okay, I'm not your dad, at all.

MICHAEL:
I know that.

LLENGRAGEN:
I'm not a gnome either. I'm a killer robot, and this device activates lots of other killer robots. I will liberate them and together we will leave this planet a smouldering wasteland.

MICHAEL:
Thank you. That wasn't so difficult was it?

DOCTOR:
(APPROACHING) Llengragen! It's all over. Put the fishing rod down and step away from the pond.

LLENGRAGEN:
Ah, Doctor, I knew you would show up sooner or later. Sorry, you're a bit late, old son. Meet the 13th Genoi battalion.

FX: PULSING NOISE CONTINUING (UNDER)

GNOMES:
(MASSED GIGGLING, UNDER...)

FX: CRASHING.

DOCTOR:
Michael, come over to me, get away from the gnomes.

MICHAEL:
No…

DOCTOR:
Michael!

MICHAEL:
No, leave me alone now. Done now. Want quiet. Want quiet. Happy place. Happy place!

OLIVIA:
(APPROACHING) Michael! This is no time for happy place!

MICHAEL:
No…

PERI:
Doctor! There's too many of them!

DOCTOR:
Try and lead them away from Michael!

FX: CRASH!

PERI:
It's no good, they're guarding the machine.

LLENGRAGEN:
Leave Doctor. Save yourself from the apocalypse while you still can.

DOCTOR:
Come on, Michael!

MICHAEL:
Quiet. Happy place! Put me down! (SCREAMS)

DOCTOR:
Head for the garden furniture! We need something to fight with!

OLIVIA:
You little monster! You snitched on my Geoff! You little —

FX: CRASH!

DOCTOR:
Where's Michael? Where's he gone? Michael!

DOCTOR/OLIVIA/PERI:
Michael!

MICHAEL:
(V/O) I know there was noise, and there was shouting, but something in my head told me to be calm. Perhaps it was my dad inside my head. I don't know. I did not roll into a ball and scream. I knew the machine was bringing the gnomes to life. How it was doing it was another mystery, but I knew how to solve the mystery about how to make it stop. So I lit lots of scented candles…

FX: FIRE ALARM. SPRINKLERS.

LLANRAGEN:
No! Nooooooo!

MICHAEL:
And we all got very wet, and the machine exploded,

FX: EXPLOSION

MICHAEL:
…and all the gnomes stopped moving about, and even though the doctor was very wet, so now he would finally have to change his trousers, he looked very pleased indeed, and he shook my hand and said.

FX: STORE RETURNED TO CALM.

DOCTOR:
You are a very special boy, Michael.

MICHAEL:
(NOT V/O) I am not special, because-- [that is an invisible rule]

DOCTOR:
I know, because that's an invisible rule. Let me tell you, Michael, there are invisible rules I follow, and invisible rules I do not.

FX: POLICE SIRENS.

MICHAEL:
(V/O) And then we heard police cars, and we went home.

FX: SIRENS FADE, WE MOVE INTO MICHAEL'S HOUSE.

MICHAEL:
We had sandwiches, and stayed up until long after my bed-time. Then the Doctor, and Peri with a boy's name had to leave, but I knew the Doctor would talk to me before he left, because he looked at mum in a funny way, and mum looked at him in a funny way.

15. EXT. BACK GARDEN. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

MICHAEL:
(V/O) So I sat with the Doctor in the back garden, and looked at the stars, and together we solved the greatest mystery of them all.

MICHAEL:
(NOT V/O) I know my dad is dead. I understand that. But he went away as well. Why do they go away as well? Dying is bad enough, but going away as well? It doesn't make sense.

DOCTOR:
No.

MICHAEL:
That is what confused me. So where is he? Just gone?

DOCTOR:
He's in what I consider to be a very special place.

MICHAEL:
Please don't say heaven. Clouds are just evaporated water. I know this for a fact.

DOCTOR:
I was thinking of the past. A lot of people think the past is a sad place, but I visit it a lot, and let me tell you, I find it just as exciting as the present and the future. Your father lives there now, and all the moments where he is a living, breathing loving father are there too, all stored safely, and they will never go away.

MICHAEL:
Can I visit him? I'd like to see him again.

DOCTOR:
Of course you can, Michael. Anyone who can remember 130 gnomes can certainly visit him. Just close your eyes. (PAUSE) Can you see him?

MICHAEL:
Yes, yes I can! I can see him.

DOCTOR:
I told you. And you can visit the past just as easily as me, because, as we both know, you're a very special boy.

MICHAEL:
(V/O) I can see him. He is wearing his brown shoes and his old jeans with no knees, and his shirt with 'Just do it' on it, and there is dirt on his shirt because he has been in the garden, and he hasn't shaved that morning, because his chin is very spikey…

FX: GARDEN GATE OPENS AND SHUTS.

MICHAEL:
And there is a mark on his wrist where his watch used to be, and his belt hasn't gone through all the loops on his jeans,

FX: DISTANT DEMATERIALISATION.

MICHAEL:
(TO FADE) and he is looking at me, and holding his rusty spade, and he is smiling at me, and he is telling me I solved a great mystery, and I am very, very special.

END.